Policemen and Firemen—1923

Arkansas.

NEGRO OFFICER QUITS.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.
Jan 29 23

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Jan. 28.—Police Officer Jim Moore, a negro known throughout the southwest for his work as a detective among his own race, resigned from the police force. Moore was a pupil of Police Chief J. Frank Stewart, recently dismissed by Mayor W. L. Toney. Moore is the fifth member of the Pine Bluff police force to leave by resignation or request, since Toney became mayor.

Policemen and Firemen—1923 D.C.

DETECTIVE PAUL W. JONES WINS PROMOTION

Washington Tribune

Washington, D. C.

Detective Paul W. Jones of the local detective force was this week promoted by Inspector Clifford Grant, head of the detective force to rank of full detective sergeant.

2-24-23

PAUL JONES

Detective Sgt. Jones has been connected with the Police Dept. for a number of years but has been assigned to the detective bureau for only 2 years. During this time he has made an enviable record for himself,taking part in many of the most famous cases turned over to his department. Sergeant Jones played a big part in running down the murderer of the late Dr. Brown. Just recently in company with detectives Sweeney, Waldron, Kelley, and Jackson, he was insrumenal in catching a band of alleged robbers after 104 hours of cotinuous work.

Sergeant Jones recently returned from Atlanta, Ga., where he carried twenty-five prisoners to the Federal Penitentiary.

After 40 Years of Efficient Service, Not One Has Been Advanced

The Civic Center of Affiliated Associations, which is waging a fight for more Negro policemen and firemen in the District, addressed a communication to Commisioner Oyster last week asking the Commissioner to investigate as to why there has been no Negroes promoted above the rank of sergeant.

5-19-23

Washington D.C.

There are thirty-six colored policemen on the District force and a number of them have served for a number of years, but not one of these men has ever reached the grade of lieutenant or captain.

The following letter has sent to the

The following letter was sent to the Commissioner on the 11th.

My dear Sir:

During the month of April, a committee representing the Civic Center of Affiliated Associations of the District of Columbia, voicing the sentiment of the colored citizens, urged the appointment of a police captain and lieutenant from the ranks of colored officers.

For over forty years, colored men have served faithfully in safe guarding the lives and property of the District. They have, however, been kept almost in one status during this period. For intelligence, fitness and length of service, they deserve recognition and will measure up to the standard required of capable officers.

In view of this indisputable fact, we ask that the present vacancies of captain and lieutenant be filled by colored men. Over one-hundred thousand citizens of the city are tax payers and are aware of the injustice of with-holding merited promotion from them in the past. They ask now through us that you correct this wrong.

The following is the reply to the above letter.

My dear Sir:

Permit me to acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your letter of May 11, and I wish you to know that I appreciate your suggestion.

However, all of these appointments, promotions, etc., come directly as a result of the Civil Service Commission examination and certification. We have no choice but to appoint those certified by the Civil Service.

Again thanking you, I am,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) James F. Oyster,

Commissioner, D. C.

However, notwithstanding Mr. Oyster's statement, when the above vacancies were made known, the names of two white men who were to take the examination were immediately announced to receive the appointment. Why no colored men were named is not known.

This Is Why Washington Is Lawless

Chicago

Washington, D. C., April 27.—The Civic Center of Affiliated Associations of the District of Columbia has registered a protest with the commissioners of the District of Columbia against what is termed "the unjust quota of white and Colored police and firemen maintained in the district."

Defender

In the petition it is cited that "of the 1,623 employees for the protection of the city, only 53 are Colored." In view of this claim it is formally requested:

5-5-23

"That the Colored people be given their quota of police in all grades from captain down and that active assignments be maintained.

"That the number of firemen be increased and proper officers appointed according to quota of population.

5-27-23

"That a Colored physician be placed on the board of examiners for the police and fire departments."

The officers are as follows: W. D. Nixon, president; H. E. Barnett, secretary; committee, Dr. Creed W. Childs, William H. Carter, Mrs. Mary Church Terrell. Dr. J. J. Porter.

Policemen and Firemen--1923.

California.

World Oust San Diego Negro Fireman

SAN DIEGO, Calif. Dec. 3 — Objection to Negroes being located as firemen at the Kearney street fire station was made to the common council this morning when a bulky petition setting forth the objections was filed. The objectionsR 123421534 filed. The objectors say Logan Heights is a residence district and that the location of Colored firemen there will result gionreNETAOIT there will result in Negro residents moving in, resulting in "injury and damage to and dissatisfaction of the white residents."

St. Louis Clarion

The petitioners also declared that the station is located in the immediate vicinity of one of the largest junior high schools in the city and that "perhaps the most important reason why a Colored crew should not be maintained at this fire station is that it is located right in the immediate vicinity of one of the largest graded schools and one of the largest junior high schools in the city, and that it is a well-known fact, as every one will concede, that children naturally look upon policemen and firemen in their uniforms as men of higher rank and dignity than the average human beings, and such an impression in young minds, is right and proper, as conducting to good citizenship and patriotism."

12-7-23

The petitioners also say:

"To place a Colored police force in the vicinity of these schools, or a Colored crew of firemen is plainly an unwise, unpatriotic and shortsighted act when viewed from the proper point, and is contrary to the best interests of the community, the city and state. To place a Colored crew there is unfair, both to the firemen as a body, of the police department, as well as to the city as a whole. The influence of such a move is far reaching and tends to form race prejudices, embitterments and quarrels, resulting eventually in race wars, such as afflicted our national capital only a few months ago and which arose, we believe from just such unwise actions as that of elevating Colored men to conspicuous places in white communities.

"The races cannot assimilate, and it is always best to keep them as much apart as possible, and especially is it desirable that race prejudice and quarrels should not be propagated in schools by the establishment of institutions in the immediate proximity thereto that will tend to produce the unhappy conditions that everyone knows eventually will arise where the races are thrown into contact."

The petition has been in circulation since November 8th and as filed contained the names of about 400 residents of Logan Heights.

Policemen and Firemen—1923 Illinois.

WICKLIFFE PROMOTED IN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Joseph C. Wickliffe, 5329 Wabash avenue, who served for 16 years as lieutenant in the city fire department, assigned to engine company No. 21, West Taylor street, was recently promoted to the rank of captain. He is now attending the drill school at Sebor and Desplaines streets. Capt. Wickliffe joined the fire department Jan. 3, 1891, and served as pipeman 16 years. He was born in Monroe, Mich., in 1876, coming to Chicago a few years later. He is one of the oldest settlers in the city. In the early '80s he was one of the "fire boys" of the old engine company No. 21.

Capt. Wickliffe

At the same time Capt. Wickliffe was elevated in the ranks, the announcement was made that W. C. Ellington, after serving 20 years as engineer, had received the appointment as lieutenant. He waived his rights for six months.

Evanston Appoints Colored Policewoman

Evanston will have a colored policewoman for work among the colored women and children, in the person of Mrs. Anna Beck, 2038 Colfax street, Evanston, Chief of Police Charles F. Leggett announced yesterday. Mrs. Beck will start work immediately, he said.

CHICAGO FIREMEN

The Chicago firemen are asking for an increase in their payroll. There is no disposition on our part to deny any man his just deserts for his work, but there are some things more important in life than higher wages for these firemen. The sinkle separate company at Taylor St. for our men is a disgrace to the city and unfair to Race taxpayers who must help pay for the city government.

The fire department does not measure up in any fashion to the police department, as far as we are concerned. Let the entire organization be free from prejudice and discrimination against men on account of color. Race men should be members of every fire company unit in the city. Fire destruction knows no color line. Why should there be one against men who are paid to fight it? There are men among us who have the training and physical ability to make them the equal of any other firemen on the present force.

We demand that the city government first see to it that the color line in the department is destroyed before any kind of consideration is given to payroll increases. Let applicants be given appointment regardless of color. Let them work in any fire house station like other men. Let them come up for promotion wherever their records merit it and let them stand or fall on their merits and not on their color, as is the case at present. Mayor Dever promised us a square deal on appointments to service in city departments. Here is a chance for him to make good on that promise and justify the support he received from the South side in the last election.

Chief's Order Makes History in Cop Circle

Photo by Woodard

SERGT. LILBURN JACKSON

The Defender's long fought battle to gain equal recognition on the local police force for members of our Race was rewarded last week when Chief of Police Morgan Collins issued an order commanding Capt. Ben Enright of the Cottage Grove Ave. station, to place Sergeant Lilburn Jackson in uniform required by that rank. Sergeant Jackson is a police veteran of 17 years' service. He served as a soldier in the Eighth regiment on the Mexican border and in the World war as machine gun commander. He resides at 4229 Prairie Ave.

COLORED POLICEMAN A HERO

Chicago.—Alsea Williams lies dying and Patrolman John E. Wade is slowly recovering here in the hospitals as the result of a pistol duel between the two. The policeman was shot while attempting to rescue a colored girl—Miss Grace Coleman—from Williams who had accosted her at pistol's point and demanded that she accompany him. Upon hearing of the facts the officer overtook them and upon commanding them to halt was fired upon by the big bully. The officer, though shot, opened fire with telling effect and though the assailant managed to get away the officer with a broken hip dragged himself in pursuit. Chief of Police Fitzmorris as a reward promoted the officer with an increase in pay of $240 per year, and he has also been awarded a hero prize of $100.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AGAIN

WE ARE STILL calling attention to the discrimination in the fire department of the city of Chicago. We have one station manned solely by members of our group and that is as far as we have been able to get under this or any other administration. There is no more reason why our men should not be scattered throughout the city in every station than there is why they should not be assigned to all stations in the police department. There is, of course, a measure of discrimination in this branch of the city's service, but not so pronounced as in our fire department.

ALTHOUGH men are often wanted to fill vacancies in so-called white fire stations, our applicants are told that there is no opening in the station devoted to them. This is a pretty state of affairs for a group of people who pay a large portion of the city taxes and whose voice in the elections is heard loud and clear. Of course custom is a hard thing to down and ignorance is still a harder thing to combat, while prejudice must be met with reason coupled with determination to run it down. Unwritten laws are all right in their place, but their place is not in our fire department.

APPOINTED POLICEWOMAN

Evanston, Ill., Aug. 7.—Mrs. Anna Beck, 2038 Colfax St., was appointed a policewoman by Chief of Police Charles Leggett Monday. Although several Race policemen are seen on the streets of Evanston, this is the first woman of the Race to be appointed.

Policemen and Firemen - 1923

Indiana.

Colored Policeman Refuses to Resign

new York
Amsterdam News

Act of Muncie Man May Lead to Big Civic Disturbance

3-17-23

MUNCIE, Ind., March 13.—(Exchange)—William A. Sims, the only remaining colored policeman on the city force, refused to resign last night and turn in his badge as requested by a written order of the board of public safety.

Sims asserts that the order was the result of enmity between certain members of the police department and federal agents that have been in Muncie for several weeks investigating alleged lawless conditions. The story is that some policemen involved in the investigation suspect Sims of giving information to the federal operatives.

Good of the Department

Will E. White, a Republican member of the board of safety, said that Sim's resignation was requested for the good of the department and because the board was not satisfied with his work. It was intimated that violations of the law had been overlooked on his beat.

Sims, in defense, points to arrests he has made, and cites three instances in which he says he asked headquarters officers to give him search warrants for places where he believed the law was being violated and failed to receive the warrants.

In refusing to resign under fire, Sims has demanded that a formal charge be filed in order to have an open hearing as required by state law. Mr. White said no charges had been filed against Sims. Sims also says that only recently he was commended by the superintendent of police and by Ira Coons, day captain, for the way he was maintaining order on his beat. Sims has served nearly four years on the police force and in that time has not been reprimanded, he said. He served nine years in the United States army.

Federal Agents at Work

It is known that federal investigators have been working here recently and are still here. They have been cooperating with former members of the police force who were discharged last fall following a reorganization of the department at the time of the Ku Klux demonstration against the discharge of Van Benbow, as chief of police and the appointment of John E. Casey which was rescinded by Mayor John C. Quick under pressure before Casey could take office.

The open hearing which Sims demands is expected to bring out some interesting testimony. Sims has employed John McPhee, former city attorney of Muncie, to represent him. As the board of safety is both prosecutor and judge in a hearing of this kind, it can discharge Sims if it wishes to do so, regardless of the evidence the defense may bring out.

Policemen and Firemen—1923. Kentucky.

LOUISVILLE KY COURIER JRNL
SEPTEMBER 30, 1923

A NEGRO FIRE COMPANY

The proposed negro fire company for Louisville is now assured. It is a safe prediction that when it is well under way it will give a good account of itself. There is first-rate material among the negroes for the making of fire-fighters, and the city does well to take advantage of it. Only race prejudice could close the doors of the Fire Department to negroes, and such race prejudice as that should have no place in any modern community.

When America puts armies into the field to fight her enemies she does not bar the negro who would wear her uniform and carry her guns. The gallant service of colored units in those armies has helped to make American history. As a soldier the negro has proved himself "a first-class fighting man," and the same qualities should make him a first-class fire fighter.

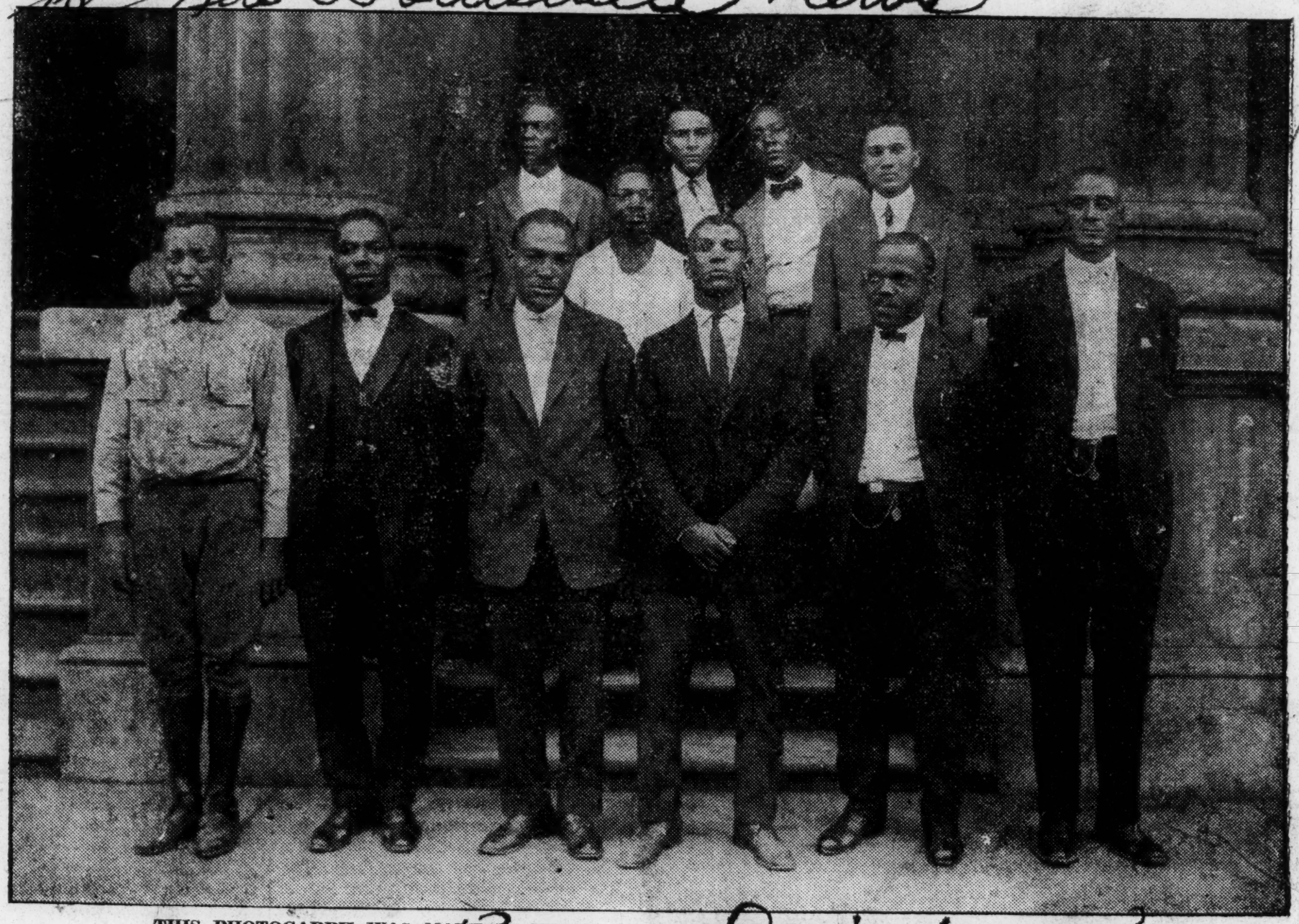
Aside from the recognition of the negro's qualifications to do good work in the Fire Department whish the organization of a colored fire company attests, it also evidences a lack of the proscriptive discrimination against the negro which has done much to embitter him with a sense of injustice and to retard his proper development. There is no social question in this recognition of the negro's fitness to serve in the Fire Department, and the mere fact that such recognition is not denied him will tend to stimulate him to qualify himself for further creditable advancement.

Give the negro a chance—an even chance—in every field for which he is adapted. That will go a long way toward solving "the race problem."

Policemen and Firemen—1923. Kentucky.

COLORED COMPANY OF FIRE DEPARTMENT APPOINTED

The Louisville News



THIS PHOTOGARPH WAS MADE IN FRONT OF THE CITY HALL LAST FRIDAY AFTERNOON

10-6-23 Louisville, Ky.

First Row, Left to Right—Charles L. Grundy, 29, 2331 Magazine street; James A. Forbuch, 29, 1016 South Hancock street, Leon Boone, 27, 5229 South Thirteenth street; Russell Wigginton, 24, 933 South Sixth street; Marion S. Tinsley, 42, 1331 South Twelfth street.

Second Row, Left to Right—Philip Towns, 23, 819 South Seventh street, Robert W. Green, 22, 2515 Magazine street. Clarence Hampton, 40, 610 South Twelfth street; William ("Jack") Third Row, Left to Right—J. W. Fowler, 36, 1515 Congress street; Porter, 40, 1907 West Walnut street.

—By courtesy of Louisville Post

At last Louisville is to have a Colored Company in the Fire Department. This was the assurance given by the Board of Public Safety and Mayor Quinn last Friday.

Despite the Colored men are in the fire departments of many Southern cities and have without exception given complete satisfaction the Democratic newspapers took advantage of the incident to try to arouse race feeling and make political capital.

Each of the afternoon dailies featured the appointment of Colored men to office under the Republican administration as if such appointments had been unreasonable in number. The fact of the matter is Colored people feel they have been poorly dealt with in the number of appointments. And such appointments as have been made could not offend the meanest and most prejudiced white people since they have been appointments of Colored people to serve COLORED people.

If white folks want separation and segregation these appointments have been that very thing.

The Louisville Post, accredited by thousands of Colored people as being the fairest daily of the local press, shocked them and shook their faith by a boxed headline of "How the G. O. P. Has Bowed the Knee to The Negro" and then recounts a list of miserly appointments.

Democratic efforts to arouse race prejudice may succeed, but as a "vote getter" those efforts will fail because no white man or woman who intends to vote the Republican ticket will change that vote because of such appeals to their prejudice, while on the other hand they will serve to make the Negro vote 100 per cent.

Here's hoping that every Negro voter will go to the polls and resent this outrageous, unreasonable and unwarranted attack on the Race.

COLORED MEMBERS OF FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTALLED IN NEW HOME

The Colored members of the Fire Department are on duty and are in their home, 13th street between Broadway and Maple. They went on duty Thursday morning, December 13. This is one feather in the cap of the Repubilcans. It is a thing that was doubted by many and a few weeks ago was openly disputed.

A COLORED fire company is now a fact. We know they will make good. Here's hoping they will more than make good.

Mayor Huston Quin says there will be a Colored swimming pool before he goes out of office.

There are two Colored detectives.

All in all things look pretty good.

Policemen and Firemen— 1923

Kentucky

WANT NEGRO POLICE

St. Louis Argus
St. Louis, Mo. 2/23/23

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 21.—Bishop George C. Clement of the A. M. E. Zion Church in a speech before the Inter-Racial Council here declared recently that crime could not be reduced without Negro police in the Negro district at least, and that Negroes should be on juries.

He explained that he had seen colored men gambling and white policemen watching them, patrolling the district and paying no attention to loose women on the streets. "In many cases," he asserted, "the police officers never bother as long as they know the criminal is a Negro and the victim is a Negro." He drew a contrast from the time when the Negro district of Louisville was patrolled by detachments from Camp Taylor with Lieutenant Richard L. Jones in charge. In a few days the army officer and his squad who were on the job, caused white soldiers who were frequent visitors and who caused much trouble to leave the district after a few arrests were made. Vice and lawlessnes which were practiced by men and women, were cut to a minimum. Jones knew every vice den in the community and without fear or favor, he made arrest after arrest, cleared up the district and made an enviable record for himself and his race.

DOUGLAS DETECTIVE AGENCY.

1-27-23

Manager Fined Twenty Dollars for Unlawfully Doing Business in the Police Court on January 22, 1923.

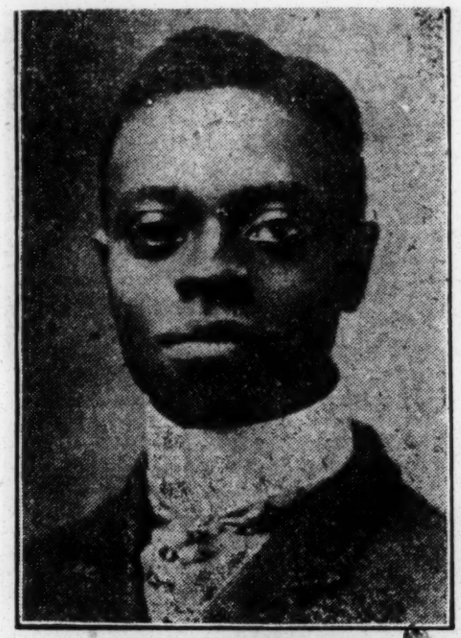
Louisville News

The Douglas Detective Agency is a legitimate concern doing business in the State of Kentucky and throughout the United States of America, and will shortly open offices in Canada and London, England.

Louisville Ky

The manager had not been notified that unless he took out a license he would be arrested, he had received two notices which is not uncommon for any business concern to receive, the custom is, to give three or four notices and then if the license are not paid issue an ordinance warrant which does not carry with it an arrest, but summons the defendant to appear in the Ordinance Court on a certain day and not in Police court.

I know of no other instance wherein an established business man has been arrested and brought into police court for failure to pay his license under and circumstances.



W. H. THOMAS, Chief Counselor.

This agency was not fostered by any administration or any political party at all. There is no connection between it and any political party. We are not gathering information about conditions in Negro districts or any other district in particular, and we have never been so employed. We handle business for individuals, corporations, cities, counties, states, the United States and any foreign government.

The only man in the State of Kentucky that had anything to do with the establishing of the agency in the State of Kentucky was William H. Thomas, their chief counseller, my only assistance in establishing the business was the statutes of Kentucky.

Any citizen having an established business that has been arrested under the same circumstances as the manager of this business was arrested, kinly communicate with me. In making the defense for the manager in the Police Court I defended for every citizen of this city.

WILLIAM H. THOMAS.

Douglas Detective Agency Creates Sensation

1-27-23

Gets a Number of Places "Pulled" For Alleged Infraction of Prohibition Laws.

Louisville News

Head Man Fined $20—No License.

The Douglas Detective Agency, with offices in the First Standard Bank Building, created a sensation last week and was the talk of the town for a minute.

Louisville Ky

Certain operatives of the concern visited a number of soft drink stands and then swore to warrants for the proprietors, alleging the drinks were not as "soft" as the prohibition laws require. The COLORED detectives visited the places, swore to the warrants but WHITE men did the arresting. Everybody arrested got sore at the COLORED detectives. They called 'em "pinys," "stool pigenos" and everything. Everybody said it was fine for the detectives to ferret out their's, trail crooked husbands and shadow trifling wives, but when it came to tracing liquor that was everybody's cup.

Finally Mr. Martin, chief of the office, was arrested and fined for operating a detective agency without a license. But according to Mr. Thomas, legal representative of the agency, the Douglas sleuths will keep right on sleuthing, in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

One thing must be admitted and it is hoped the city administration will see the point. The Douglas Detective Agency has proven that Colored Police Officers are very valuable in catching Colored criminals. If this private agency can find lawbreakers it is certain Colored men appoite dtotehn uuth appointed to the regular Police Force would be a great help to law and order in Louisville.

TWO RACE MEN SWORN IN AS DETECTIVES IN KENTUCKY

The Pittsburgh Pa Courier 8-11-23

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Aug. 9.—The first race men to be members of the Louisville Police Department were sworn in last week when Page Hemphill and William Woods were officially attached to the detective force by Mayor Quinn.

City To Have Two Colored Detectives

Chief Of Police Convenced Negro Officers Do Good In Negro Districts

Now For Colored Physicians and Nurses In City Hospital

Courier 7-14-23

The Louisville News has argued, demanded and pleaded for Colored policemen and firemen for years.

The argument has not been made merely on political lines but because experience has shown in other cities, both North and South, that Colored lawofficers are more efficient and more successful in apprehending Colored law breakers than white officers.

According to the daily papers the Chief of Police was convinced of this recently when he visited New York and talked with an immigration official.

At any rate it is being said two Colored men are in line to be appointed as detectives. It is said Messrs. Page Hemphill and John Henry Tombs are the two men selected.

If this is true, it is a very fine thing if they are to be regular detectives, clothed with the authority to arrest and not be figureheads.

All good citizens should co-operate with them and help them to make good. No good citizen will cover up and hide a law breaker A good citizen owes it to the community to give the police authorities all the assistance he can that will lead to the apprehension of law-breakers.

Talk Of Colored Cops Dies Down

Skeptics Say Its "Election Bull"

Tho News Does Not Believe White People Would Stoop To Deceiving Negroes

Doubt is being expressed on all sides that there is any intention of appointing Colored men as detectives or policemen. Many people charge that the noise of appointing Colored men to the police department will quiet down just as the swimming pool noise quieted down. Louisville News

These people claim that talk of appointing COLORED men as detectives is "political bull;" that election time is drawing near and "to square the Negro" for ignoring him all during Morrow's administration and up to date under Mayor Quin, this talk is put out. 7-21-23

Meanwhile scores of Colored men are "falling for the bull" and in all seriousness are running around with application blanks getting "recommendations." Louisville, Ky.

Even if there is anything in the talk o fappointing Colored men to the force it is settled there are only two jobs. Up to going to press there are over fifty applications for the two jobs.

Some say this will result in no appointments.

The News, for one, believes the Mayor, Board of Safety and Chief of Police are in earnest about appointing Colored men to the department.

The News can not see why these gentlemen should go to the trouble of deceiving Negroes. The majority of Negroes are satisfied to vote the Republican ticket whether they get any recognition or not, so why should they be promised anything?

The News knows one thing and that is if the Mayor, et al, are in earnest about stopping crime in this city they could do nothing better than to put a score of good, clear soberminded Colored men on the police force.

The only reward the Negro has got for his support of the Republican party is the priviledge of shooting craps and of bootlegging. None of the good Negropreachers and big Christians, who supported the Republicans with so much loyalty has gotten anything worthwhile and The News has yet to hear that any of them has denounced the rotten conditions that exist in Negro communities.

That the Chief of Police and Mayor Quinn have been against these things is not because they care a rap about the uplift and welfare of the Negroes so much as because they are fighting the Republican organization.

If they are in good faith there will be no stalling about this matter, but a number of good, worth while Colored men will be put on the police force and will be given authority to clean up Negro districts.

The conditions in the Negro districts are a shame to any city that pretends to be a city of progress. That Negro preachers and leaders do not rise up and denounce them is a disgrace to the Negro preachers and the Negro church.

It seems that to them vice is alright if labelled "Republican." BY ALL MEANS GIVE US NEGRO OFFICERS!

Policemen and Firemen — 1923 Maryland.

Want Colored Police

Hagerstown, Md., April 19.—At the meeting of the Street Commissioners on Tuesday night, a delegation of twenty-four colored citizens and three whites, headed by Benjamin Lee, requested that a colored policeman be appointed for the colored section of the city. The board promised to give the matter consideraion.

Police-men and Firemen — 1923 Massachusetts.

BOSTON POLICEMAN FOUND GUILTY OF ASSAULTS— NOT COLORED POLICEMAN

The Guardian 1-20-23

On charges of indecent assaults upon four young girls in South Boston on Aug. 15 and Sept. 1, 1922 Timothy J. Murphy a policeman attached to Division 12, South Boston, was found guilty yesterday by a jury in the Third Session of the Superior Criminal Court. Murphy was suspended from duty on Nov. 22 last.

POLICE SERGT. HOMER HONORED AT FUNERAL

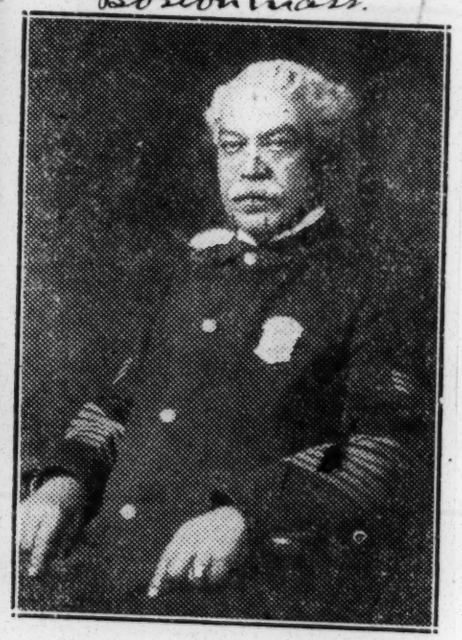
1-20-23

SUPT. CROWLEY OF BOSTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS AT CHURCH—1ST COLORED POLICEMAN HERE—GUARD AT POLICE COMMISSIONERS DOOR FOR 40 YEARS—RESPECTED BY ALL.

Guardian

Sergeant Horatio J. Homer, the first colored man appointed to the Boston police force, for more than 40 years the guard at the doors of the police

Bostonian.



LATE SERGT. HOMER

commissioners, died Wednesday evening, January 11, 1923, at his home 82 Humboldt Ave., Roxbury. Very simple funeral services were held for Police Sergeant Horatio J. Homer, Friday morning of last week.

At 11 there was a service at the Ebenezar Baptist Church, W. Springfield Street attended by intimate friends of the family and by a detail of six from Police Headquarters under command of Supt. of Police Michael J. Crowley.

Rev. Cassius Ward of the Ebenezar Baptist Church officiated. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, Brighton. Sergeant Homer was retired about 5 years ago after more than 40 years of service. He had been ill for a month. He leaves to mourn their loss his wife Lydia, and two sons Horatio, Jr., and David L. Homer, and a very dear cousin who has made her home with them, Mrs. Ella Chandler, who was at the bed-side when the end came, doing all she could with loving hand. The music, including Those ever beautiful hymns, "Nearer My God to Thee" and "Jesus Lover of My Soul," favorites of the deceased, was arranged by a faithful friend Mr. John Barkeley, Jr., and sung by a quartette.

The family wishes to thank their many friends for their many expressions of sympathy and floral designs: Mrs. Lydia Homer and sons, Mrs. Ella Chandler.

OFFICER BLAIR QUITS

The Guardian

ONE OF BEST RACE POLICEMEN—HERO IN CASE WITH SOUTHERNERS—FEELS COLORED NOT BACKED UP ENOUGH WHEN ARRESTING WHITES.

Guardian, Boston Mass.

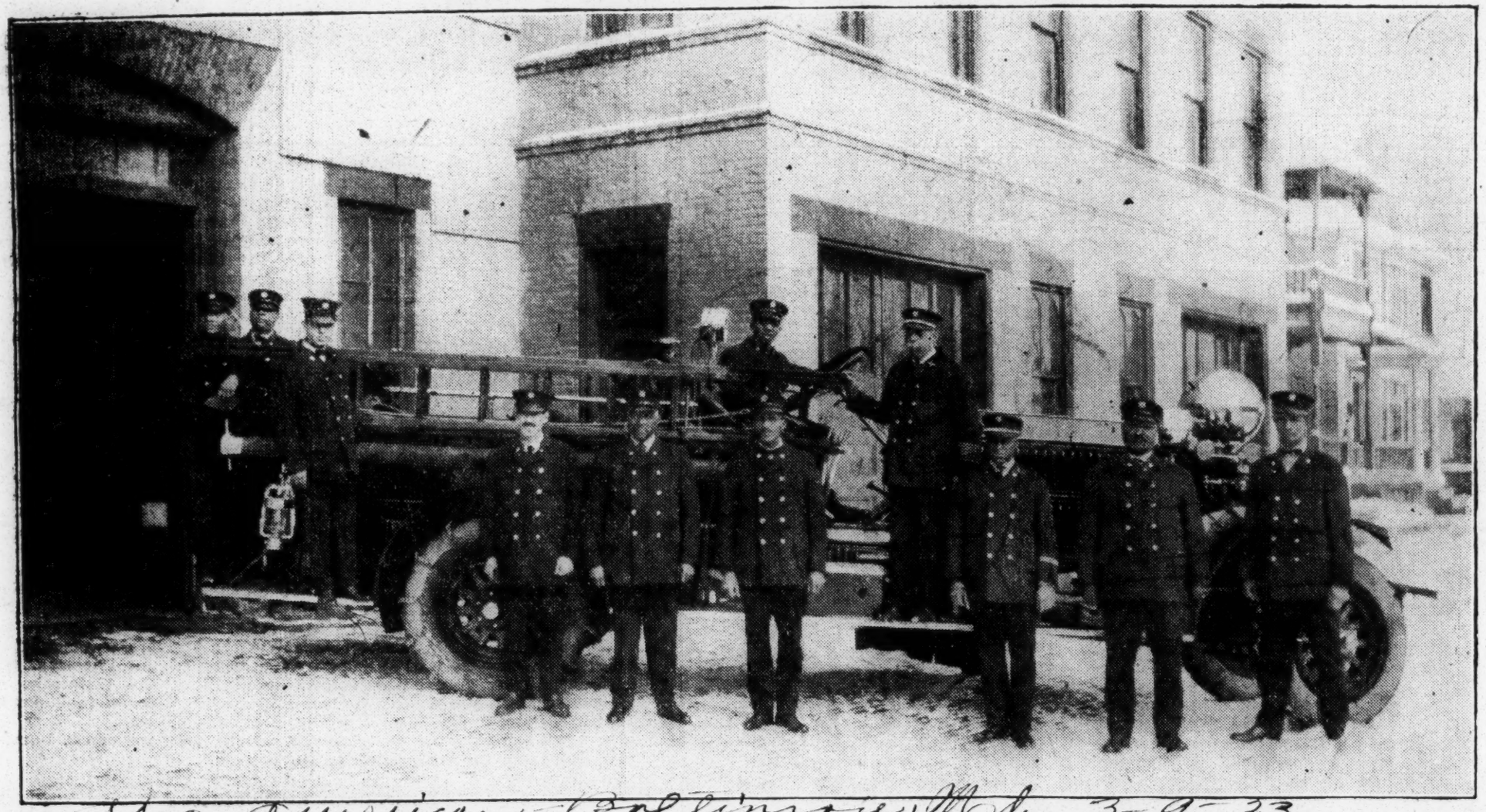
Patrolman David Blair, one of the most efficient police officers in Boston, pride of the Colored citizens, especially since his arrest of the white Southerners, who was instructor at Harvard and who slashed Blair when caught in doorway with sweetheart, resigned on Monday from the force. It is said he will go into business in Chicago. 3/17/23

Blair has been backed up more or less when accused, but has said that the Department tolerates too much action against Colored officers when those they arrest are whites, especially white women. Colored Boston regrets his going.

Police-men and Firemen – 1923

Minnesota

BALTIMORE NEEDS ONE OF THESE



Afro American - Baltimore, Md. 3-9-23

St. Paul, Minnesota, has a colored fire company, as the above photograph shows. The Fire Chief says they are a paying investment for the City, and one of the most efficient companies he has. "First to a fire and last to leave," is their motto. The engine house is a model of cleanliness and likewise the engine.

Policemen and Firemen—1923

Missouri

Group of St. Louis Negro Uniform Policemen

St. Louis Argus, St. Louis, Mo. 2/23/23

Seated—Captain Arthur L. McGuire, (white), Eighth District. Reading from left to right: Top, Henry A. Sanders, John Kenard, Paul Gross, Anderson Logan, Thomas F. Smith. Bottom—Elisha D. Pettis, Jerry Dixon, Clarence Lee, Isaac Bates, Lester Kyser, Clarence Stanford, James A. Taylor, Moses Carter, Clarence Whitlow.

A litle more than eighteen months ago a group of Negro uniform police were inducted into the service as Probationary patrolmen. According to reports of the police officials, these men have "made good."

In response to inquiries at the Argus office with regards to the promotion of these men to the rank of patrolmen after serving as probationaries for eighteen months, it may be said that the Police Department of St. Louis comprises 1720 men at present, full strength as follows, 14 captains, 20 lieutenants, 190 sergeants, 1250 patrolmen and 250 probationary patrolmen

Eligible For Promotion

Before any of the above are eligible for promotion they must have served at least one year in their present rank. Probationary one year patrolmen, three years, sergeant, one year, lieutenant one year, captains are eligible for chief.

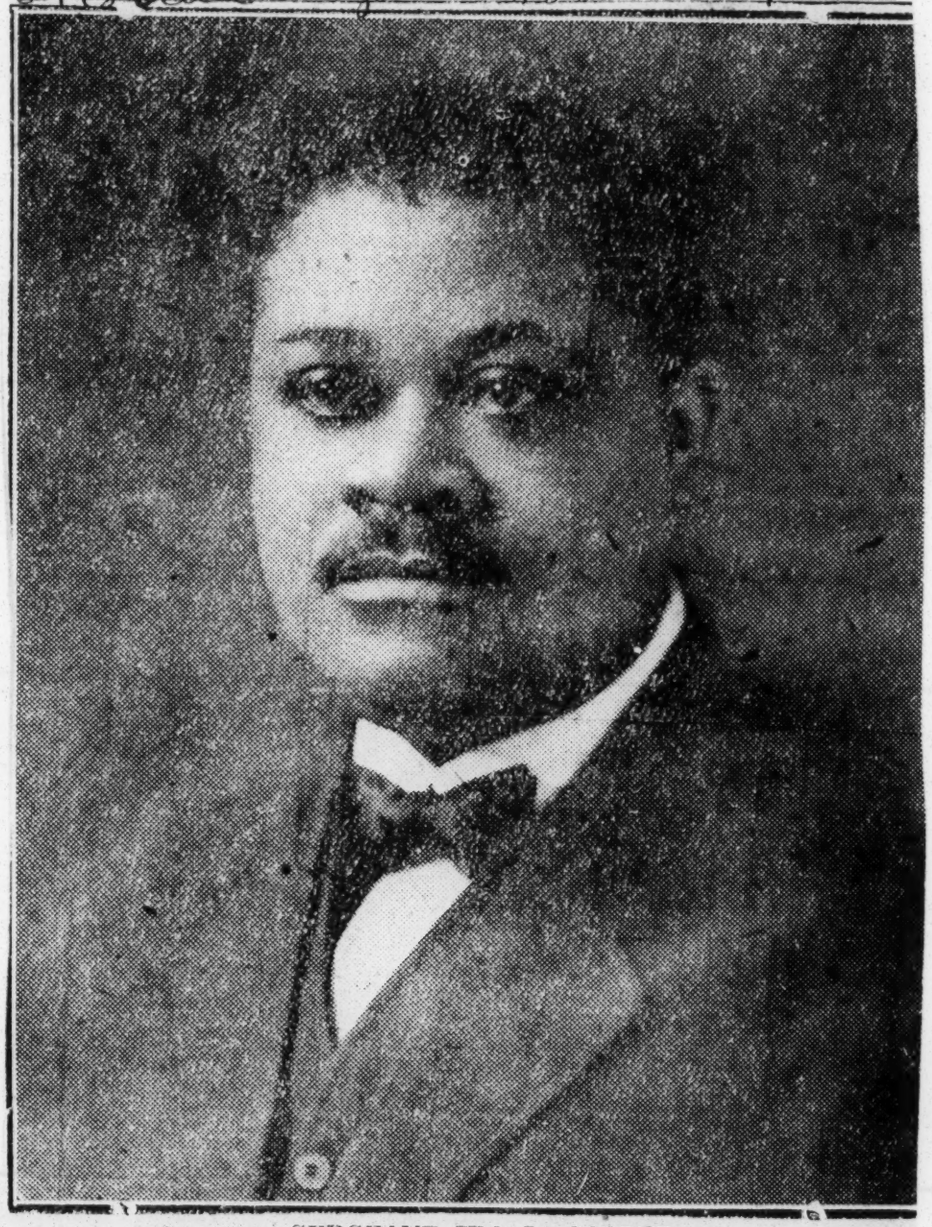
On account of deaths, resignations etc., the colored probationaries will very soon be promoted. This information was given out from Police headquarters. The promotions will be made according to the grade made by applicant at time he entered the service. Those who made the highest marks at that time will be first to receive promotions.

Some comment however is heard regarding the promotion of Detective Ira Cooper. It has been said that he ranked among the highest in his examinations for promotion, but for some reason the Board has failed to promote him.

It is generally believed that had Victor Miller remained head of the police department, Mr. Cooper would have been made sergeant before now.

Colored Detective Wins A Promotion

St. Louis Argus, St. Louis Mo. 3-2-23



SERGEANT IRA L. COOPER

Following a news item in last weeks issue of the St. Louis Argus, in which attention was called to the fact that notwithstanding officer Ira L. Cooper had made high marks in all his examinations, he had not been promoted, the Board of Police Commissioners in their meeting last Tuesday February 27, promoted Cooper to the rank of Sergeant in the police department.

The news of this well-earned promotion was received by the many friends of Sergeant Cooper with a deal of satisfaction and met the general approval of the public. He is the first of his race to be accorded this distinction in the Police Department of this City.

In recognition of this honor, his fellow officers arranged an elaborate banquet in Sergeant Cooper's honor at the Chauffeurs' Club Winter Garden, Wednesday evening. Seated at the table were members of the race who are identified with the detective department and Sergeant Michael Callahan (white), who has supervision of the colored squad. Other guests were Elmer Pettis, Charles Mills, S. Lawson, Langston Harrison, Constable of the Fourth District.

Short talks were made complimentary to the services Sergeant Cooper has rendered not only the police department but to his race as well.

A. E. Malone acted as master of ceremonies.

Sergeant Cooper is a graduate from Central Tennessee College, Nashville, Tenn. He is 43 years old, married and has two children, both of whom are pupils at Sumner High School, this City.

Policemen and Firemen—1923 New Jersey.

Cop 7 Feet Tall Is First on the Force

Chicago Defender 3-3-23

Elizabeth, N. J., March 2.—The first policeman of our Race was appointed to the local force Saturday, Feb 24. He is Kirkpatrick Marrow, 315 Madison avenue, who stood high on the civil service list.

Marrow is nearly seven feet tall and will be assigned to the traffic squad.

White Firemen in Orange Succeed in Driving Out Negro, World War Vet.

(Special to The New York Age)

East Orange, N. J.—That the average white man has little sense of fair play or justice when dealing with a colored man is exemplified in the treatment a group of white firemen accorded Wm. Townsend, a colored man, veteran of the recent World War, who by virtue of high ranking in civil service examination, was named as a probationary fireman, the appointment to be made permanent after three months service if record is satisfactory.

The colored man's presence was objected to by the white firemen. On reporting for duty, Townsend found that not only was he "sent to Coventry" by the white firemen, but they saturated his bed with "itch powder," a concoction that caused an irritation which necessitated his receiving medical attention.

Head officials of the local department advised Townsend to go back on duty, which he did, vowing to stick. But the pressure has proven too great. In responding to fires, Townsend proved a good worker. But notwithstanding his ability as a fire fighter and in spite of his fine war record, the white firemen persisted in their attitude, forcing Townsend to live in virtual isolation. He was ignored in every way, the whites moving away from any part of the fire house where Townsend might happen to be.

So last week he quit the fire-fighting game, for the second and last time evidently intending to get a job affording a more congenial atmosphere.

Policemen and Firemen—1923.

New York.

Ohio's Only Colored Police-Woman on a Vacation in New York

Mrs. Esther B. Ferguson, only colored policewoman of Toledo and the State of Ohio, spent part of her vacation in New York last week, the guest of Mrs. Jeanne Carroll of 173 West 141st street.

Although Mrs. Ferguson is small and comely, she has successfully discharged the duties of a policewoman since March 6, 1922. Previous to that time she had been a voluntary probation worker under her aunt, Mrs. A. King, who has been a probation officer in Toledo for fifteen years.

Mrs. Ferguson is detailed as a supervisor of dance halls, parks and other places of amusement. She also looks after boys and girls under seventeen years of age. Since there are only 1782 colored people in Toledo, her work is not confined to her race, and she has handled all problems under her direction so tactfully that she has ben permitted to act in the place of almost every woman in the Woman's Bureau of the Police Department of Toledo.

She was much impressed with her first visit to New York, but stated to a reporter of The Age that she found many of the dance halls and cabarets of Harlem in need of stricter regulations and supervision. She left on Tuesday to join her mother in Canada.

Colored Patrolmen Win Sergeant Stripes In New York

(New York, May 25.)

By orders from Police Commissioner Richard E. Enright, Patrolmen E. H. Green and William Boyden for the past year assigned to plain clothes duty and attached to Police Headquarters, are made Acting Detective Sergeants as of May 16, at 8 a. m. Only one other Negro policeman has attained this rank, Acting Detective Sergeant Wesley Redding.

Sergeant Green has been a member of the New York Police Department since 1916, and he was the only colored officer to leave the force for war duty in France. He enlisted in the famous Buffaloes regiment, the 367th, and went to France as a private. For gallantry and conspicuous service he was promoted while in France to commissioned rank, returning to America a second lieutenant. Resuming his police duty, Officer Green won the respect, esteem and admiration of his superior officers by his devotion to duty and by the intelligent and capable manner in which he performed his tasks.

He was attached to the 38th Precinct, West 135th street station. By special orders he was detached from uniform service and put on plain clothes duty, being attached to headquarters downtown. Just before being sent down on this duty, about a year ago, Officer Green was cited for special honors and commended for admission to the Honor Legion of hte Police Department, being the only colored officer having this honor.

Sergeant Green is a native of South Carolina, having been born in the Palmetto State 32 years ago. He is married, living at 43 West 129th street, and is the father of two children.

His working pardner, Officer William Boyden, was a member of the same batallion in the Buffaloes as Sergeant Green, but not become connected with the New York Police Department until 1920. He was attached to the 38th Precinct, and was given the same special plain clothes detail as Officer Green about a year ago. He has been paired with Green since that time.

Boyden was born in North Carolina, and is 31 years of age. He is married and lives at 129 West 142nd street.

These two men have made splendid records and their promotion is the direct result of excellent performance of duty.

Officers Green and Boyden Win Sergeantcy Promotions

Edward P. Mulrooney Is New Police Captain of 38th Precinct, Harlem

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Without warning and contrary to his personal wish or desire, Captain Patrick F. Gargan, in charge of the 38th Precint, West 135th street station, was placed on the retired list by special orders issued by Police Commissioner, Richard E. Enright, together with six other captains who had reached the age of sixty. The retirement carries with it a pension of $2,000 yearly.

Captain Edward P. Mulrooney has been named to succeed Capt. Gargan and is on active duty. The new police captain was formerly a lieutenant, attached to the Public Safety Division, under Special Deputy Commissioner Baron G. Collier.

Negro Fire Fighters

IN LOOKING over the list of persons eligible for positions with the Fire Department of the City of New York recently published by the Municipal Civil Service, we do not recognize the name of a single person living in the colored section of Harlem. Surely, there must be young colored men here who would like to be members of the fire-fighting forces of the greatest city in the world. If so, we would advise that aspirants to positions in this branch of the civil service take the examinations and qualify. Getting an appointment after qualifying won't be the easiest thing in the world, but once on the eligible list, the civil service law will have to be violated to prevent appointments. The same obstacles will be met and overcome as were broken down in the Police Department and other branches of the city government.

PROBATIONARY COP, YOUNG NEGRO, NAMED PEACE, WINS SPURS

New York Age

Jiu Jitsu Trick, Lately Learned, Brings Obstreperous Prisoner to Subjugation.

10-6-23

Probationary Policeman Harold Pace, a young colored man, was sent out from the police training school a few days ago, and one of the last lessons he learned was in the art of jiu jitsu. In consequence, Frank Myers, 23, an alleged burglar, is in durance vile.

New York City

Peace was on duty near 76th street and Columbus avenue, when he was called to 114 West 76th street. Patrolmen Pray and Hunter of West 68th street station accompanying him. They were told that a man had fled to the roof. While the other officers searched the roof, Peace watched the corner.

In the meantime, Meyers had reached the roof and swung himself down from the roof into the window of a bathroom. A woman screamed, for she was taking a bath. The intruder, however, bowled her over and made a rush for the street. Peace, on guard, intercepted him, and when Meyers made to resist the officer, the young probationer put into use his recently gained knowledge of jiu jitsu. Meyers was quickly overpowered and put under arrest.

Police-men and Firemen—1923 Virginia

Firemen's Local Re-elect Officers

Messrs. Bowens And Sweat Re-elected For Sixth And Seventh Terms.

Norfolk Journal

Mr. Chas. H. Bowens has been unanimously elected Supreme Grand Secretary and Business Manager of the U. F. P. B. of America for the year of 1923. 1/27/23

Mr. Bowens is now serving his seventh year in said office. During his official career, he has sit in conference with practically every superintendent manipulating steamships in Norfolk harbor that employs colored seamen, for the purpose of adjusting wages, food conditions and sleeping quarters. Norfolk Virginia

Such responsibility at times isn't absolutely pleasant; however Mr. Bowens has managed to be held in high esteem by all whom he has come in contact with, and is granted the permission to enter all steamers plying in and out of Norfolk harbor for the interest of colored seamen, and has been authorized by general agents and engineers to say that all colored oilers, firemen and coal passers employd on coast wise steamers plying in and out of Norfolk harbor will be employed through his office at 36 Church street, Norfolk, Va.

Mr. James H. Sweat has been elected as Supreme Grand President of the U. F. P. B. of America.. Mr. Sweat is now serving his sixth year as president. During such time he has demonstrated himself as a man worthy of leadership, and has been a great help to Mr. C. H. Bowens in transacting business for the Association.

Madame Jannie Williams has been elected as president of Firemen's Ladies Aid Society, and is making rapid progress increasing membership. She is loved by her members, and highly appreciated by the members of the grand lodge.

The remaining officers are: Lonnie Bryant, vice-president; Monroe Little, treasurer; George Yarrell, master-at-arms; Wm. H. Brown chaplain; George Pope, inner guard

NORFOLK VA VIRGINIAN PILO
APRIL 11, 1923

JIM PERRY DIES 'WITH BOOTS ON'

Negro Detective Stricken While Aiding Headquarters Man in Investigation

Jim Perry, colored, will no longer be a terror to the negro criminal element of Norfolk. He is dead.

And, to use the expresion of a number of the police detective department, "he died in his boots."

For fifteen years Jim Perry has been a valuable adjunct to the Norfolk police department. Through his knowledge of the underworld, in which hundreds of his own race lived, and his fearlessness, he has been the means of bringing to book some of the most dangerous negroes in this section. For that reason he was hated by the negro law breakers. He was assisting a Norfolk detective Saturday night, when he was stricken with a hemorrhage. He was sent to his home, 827 Queen street. He died there last night at 10 o'clock.

Perry was ill with influenza about ten days ago. His condition improved and he was restless to be in harness again. Although he was advised against leaving the house, he insisted on accompanying the plainclothes man on an important case Saturday night. It was the last time he was on his feet.

Headed by Detective Leon Nowitzky, members of the police department yesterday afternoon started a subscription for the benefit of Jim Perry. Many dollars had been contributed before 8 o'clock last night. The names of scores of prominent citizens who knew his worth to the department were on the list. The money collected will be used in defraying his funeral expenses.

While Perry was feared and hated by the criminal element of his race, he was respected by the better class of colored people. For that reason news of his death last night was received with contrasted feelings. It was the talk of the uptown section. If detectives are consulted, they will say that many of the worst negro characters in Norfolk have been arrested and convicted through the activities of Jim Perry.

He May Not Have Lived in Vain

Jim Perry, local police aide, unofficial detective and scout is dead. The papers and the police officers with and for whom he worked paid him high tributes. The police admit that without Perry's aid much of their success in running down desperate criminals would not have been possible. He was admittedly a good detective.

Yet, Perry could not wear the insigna of an officer. He was not carried on the payrolls of the police department as a member of the same His color barred him. But the department recognized his ability and capacity for the difficult and dangerous work of a sleuth and used him. They had to use him unofficially—on account of his color—and according to street parlance and custom Perry's connection with the department took the undignified and contemptible form of "stool pigeon."

Nobody respects a stool-pigeon. The very term is repulsive. Folks are suspicious and distrustful of stool pigeons. So the circumstance that Perry had to do his work as a stool pigeon won for him the contempt of many members of his race and the everlasting ill-will of the underworld. Even the underworld admires an upstanding man. Those who held him in contempt believed that he compromised his self-respect and invited contempt when he accepted police assignments as a stool pigeon instead of spurning it if it was not given him in an official and dignified manner.

But even a stool pigeon may serve a good purpose. Perry demonstrated to the satisfaction of those who denied him a dignified chance that he was a good sleuth. He was accomplished in the art and got results. He proved that colored men make good police officers, and that colored police officers are vitally necessary. May not Perry have opened the way for the appointment of an upstanding, capable man to continue his valuable work in an official capacity? We believe that race relations in Norfolk would be helped by the appointment of such a man, and that he would strengthen the effectiveness of the department. It is worth considering, Col. Borland.